

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

- means for receiving a first request in a first media format of a plurality of different media formats via a first communication channel of a plurality of communication channels, wherein each communication channel of the plurality of communication channels has an associated media format of the plurality of different media formats;
- means for receiving a second request in a second media format of the plurality of different media formats via a second communication channel of the plurality of communication channels;
- means for determining media formats associated with communication channels that each agent of one or more agents is ~~[[pre-]]authorized by a system administrator~~ to access, wherein the communication channels that each agent of the one or more agents is ~~[[pre-]]authorized by the system administrator~~ to access comprise at least one of the plurality of communication channels, **and wherein the means for determining comprises a table stored in memory, wherein the table comprises an entry that identifies at least one communication channel that one of the one or more agents is not authorized to access;** and
- means for assigning, in response to the determining, the one or more agents to handle the first and second requests based on the media formats of the first and second requests and the media formats associated with the communication channels that each agent of the one or more agents is ~~[[pre-]]authorized by the system administrator~~ to access.

2. (Original) The apparatus, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

means for assigning the one or more agents to handle the first and second requests based on the subject matter of the first and second requests and the skills associated with the one or more agents.

3. (Original) The apparatus, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

means for queuing the first and second requests until one of the one or more agents is available to accept the first or second requests.

4. (Original) The apparatus, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

means for assigning the first and second requests to the one or more agents based on a set of rules.

5. (Original) The apparatus, as set forth in claim 4, further comprising:

means for allowing an agent to decline being assigned to the first or second requests.

6. (Original) The apparatus, as set forth in claim 4, further comprising:

means for allowing an agent to route a request assigned to the agent to another agent.

7. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a first request in a first media format of a plurality of different media formats via a first communication channel of a plurality of communication channels, wherein each communication channel of the plurality of communication channels has an associated media format of the plurality of different media formats;

receiving a second request in a second media format of the plurality of different media formats via a second communication channel of the plurality of communication channels;

determining media formats associated with communication channels that each agent of one or more agents is ~~[[pre-]]authorized by a system administrator~~ to access, wherein the communication channels that each agent of the one or more agents is ~~[[pre-]] authorized by the system administrator~~ to access comprise at least one of the plurality of communication channels, **and wherein the determining comprises reference to a table stored in memory, wherein the table comprises**

an entry that identifies at least one communication channel that one of the one or more agents is not authorized to access; and

in response to the determining, assigning the one or more agents to handle the first and second requests based on the media formats of the first and second requests and the media formats associated with the communication channels that each agent of the one or more agents is ~~[[pre-]]authorized by the system administrator~~ to access.

8. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 7, further comprising:
assigning the one or more agents to handle the first and second requests based on the subject matter of the first and second requests and the skills associated with the one or more agents.
9. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 7, further comprising:
queuing the first and second requests until one of the one or more agents is available to accept the first or second requests.
10. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 7, further comprising:
assigning the first and second requests to the one or more agents based on a set of rules.
11. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 10, further comprising:
allowing an agent to decline being assigned to the first or second requests.
12. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 10, further comprising:
allowing an agent to route a request assigned to the agent to another agent.
13. (Original) A computer readable storage media comprising:
computer instructions to implement the method of claim 7.
14. (Original) A signal in a carrier medium comprising:
computer instructions to implement the method of claim 7.

15. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a first computer server configured to receive a first request in a first media format of a plurality of different media formats via a first communication channel of a plurality of communication channels and a second request in a second media format of the plurality of different media formats via a second communication channel of the plurality of communication channels; and

a queuing engine configured to:

determine media formats associated with communication channels that each agent of one or more agents is ~~[[pre-]]authorized by a system administrator~~ to access, wherein the communication channels that each agent of the one or more agents is ~~[[pre-]]authorized by the system administrator~~ to access comprise at least one of the plurality of communication channels, wherein the queuing engine references a table stored in memory, wherein the table comprises an entry that identifies at least one communication channel that one of the one or more agents is not authorized to access, and

in response to determining the media formats associated with the communication channels that each agent of the one or more agents is pre-authorized to access, assign the one or more agents to handle the first and second requests based on the media formats of the first and second requests and the media formats associated with the communication channels that each agent of the one or more agents is ~~[[pre-]]authorized by the system administrator~~ to access.

16. (Previously presented) The system, as set forth in claim 15, wherein the queuing engine is further configured to:

assign the one or more agents to handle the first and second requests based on the subject matter of the first and second requests and the skills associated with the one or more agents.

17. (Previously presented) The system, as set forth in claim 15, wherein the queuing engine is further configured to:

queue the first and second requests until one of the one or more agents is available to accept the first or second requests.

18. (Previously presented) The system, as set forth in claim 15, wherein the queuing engine is further configured to:

assign the first and second requests to the one or more agents based on a set of rules.

19. (Previously presented) The system, as set forth in claim 10, wherein the queuing engine is further configured to:

allow an agent to decline being assigned to the first or second requests.

20. (Previously presented) The system, as set forth in claim 10, wherein the queuing engine is further configured to:

allow an agent to route a request assigned to the agent to another agent.

21. (Cancelled)